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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,765	01/25/2002	Susumu Takatsuka	100809-00164(SCEY 19.380)	9583
26304	7590	09/15/2006	EXAMINER RUTLEDGE, AMELIA L	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			ART UNIT 2176	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed 06/30/2006.
2. Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 13, 25, and 37 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 3-13, 15-25, 28-37, and 39-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota et al. (hereinafter "Kubota"), U.S. Patent No. 5,956,021 issued September 1999, in view of Scott, U.S. Patent No. 5,543,818, issued August 1996.**

Regarding amended independent claim 1, claim 1 cites: *An information entry method comprising the steps of: displaying each of a plurality of groups, which respectively contains a plurality of information grouped according to a predetermined rule, so that each information contained in each group is displayed;*

Kubota teaches a method of inputting information into a portable information processing device in which the keys may be divided into at least one group of related keys, displaying a representative key and the display may change the keys so that a row of other related keys are adjacent to the provisionally selected key (Col. 4, l. 14-22). While

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Kubota does not explicitly teach that each item of information contained in each group is displayed, Scott teaches a method for entering text to a computer system using an input device having a small number of keys (Abstract; Fig. 1), where character information is displayed in groups where all characters in the group are displayed (Col. 2, l. 1-10), and the user may select a character from the group of characters.

Claim 1 also cites: *making available a group selection mode allowing selection of the displayed group and a information selection mode allowing selection of information contained in the group;*

Kubota teaches that in the initial screen of the display device, only representative keys are displayed, allowing the display of Japanese, English, and numeral keys on the same screen so that the operator does not have to switch keyboards and allowing selections from the displayed groups. Kubota teaches that a user may select a key from a group of related keys by dragging the pen outside the representative key (Col. 4, l. 14-22), allowing selection of information contained in the group.

Claim 1 also cites: *displaying a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups;*

Kubota teaches that the keys are divided into groups of related keys (Col. 3, l. 57-65).

Claim 1 also cites: *allowing the group selected in the group selection mode to transit to the information selection mode; displaying an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information;*

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While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transit from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, Scott teaches allowing group selection mode to transit to information selection mode, allowing the user to select a character from the group and displaying the selected character with a distinctive color or brightness to be distinguished from the other characters (Col. 4, l. 4-45).

Claim 1 also cites: *setting the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defining an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information; wherein each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode; and wherein the predetermined information is defined beforehand.*

Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18; especially l. 11-15), compare to *wherein each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode; and wherein the predetermined information is defined beforehand.* Kubota also teaches displaying other keys in a group display in an enlarged manner in response to user input (col. 12, l. 24-54). Kubota teaches selection and entry of the character according to a predetermined instruction. While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is definable information, Scott teaches that a

user can set the information selected in the information selection mode as definable information, i.e., the input device includes a shift key and different character selection menus are displayed in response to actuation of the shift key, such as lower case, or upper case characters (Col. 2, l. 22-29).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, since the reduced keystroke character grouping method disclosed by Scott may be applied to any group of characters and input device keys, including pictographic symbols of Chinese and Japanese languages (col. 5, l. 38-45); so that the user would have the benefit of using the grouped characters for easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22), thus allowing for faster and easier character entry.

Regarding dependent claim 3, Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Further, Kubota teaches an embodiment where a kana row becomes shaded and subordinate keys appear in a downward row, displaying the selected group in an enlarged manner compared with the other groups (Col. 17, l. 26-37, Fig. 19).

Regarding dependent claim 4, Kubota teaches that a provisionally selected key is expanded leftward and upward (Col. 3, l. 23-24).

Regarding dependent claim 5, Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group according to a predetermined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing is completed according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Regarding dependent claim 6, Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group according to a predetermined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing is completed according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Regarding dependent claim 7, Kubota teaches an arrangement and grouping of keys on the display area, where the user may select a key from the group and representative key, according to a predefined selection instruction (Fig. 7, Fig. 16, Col. 15, l. 48-63). Kubota also teaches that during the selection process, when the pen touches the screen and the elapsed time is longer than the predetermined sample time period, interrupt processing is generated and key code designation information is

incremented (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 10). Thus the selection processing changes state according to a predetermined set of selection instructions.

Regarding dependent claims 8-10, Kubota teaches the ordered (i.e., predetermined) storage of characters where order of character codes is determined by their attributes, including voiced sound and p-sound katakana (Col. 7, l. 3-19, Col. 9, l. 1-7). Further, there is a text edit area for kana-kanji conversion. Kubota teaches the cycled selection mode in which a user can select the special characters (Col. 11, l. 58-Col. 12, l. 33). Kubota also teaches means of changing the key display on the screen in response to the user's key input selection (Claim 1), compare to Claim 9, *adding a predetermined associate information to the definable information*.

Regarding dependent claim 11, Kubota teaches that display position and character sizes are determined by the values stored in the figure information record, and Kubota teaches that when the characters are cycled by elapsed time the user has the option of selecting a lowercase character (Col. 11, l. 39-Col. 12, l. 33).

Regarding dependent claim 12, while Kubota does not explicitly teach changing the text into lower case, Scott teaches that a user can set the information selected in the information selection mode as definable information, i.e., the input device includes a shift key and different character selection menus are displayed in response to actuation of the shift key, such as lower case, or upper case characters (Col. 2, l. 22-29).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

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combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, so that the user would have the benefit of easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22).

Independent claim 13 cites: *An information entry device comprising: a storage means for storing a plurality of information which is grouped to a plurality of groups according to a predetermined rule; and*

Kubota teaches a character code information storage unit and display storage units where information is grouped and ordered according to predetermined rules (Col. 6, l. 41-Col. 7, l. 50).

Claim 13 also cites: *a control means for controlling display of a group on a monitor screen, and for controlling, based on a display position on the monitor screen and a predetermined instruction entry, at least an operation in a group selection mode allowing selection of the displayed group and an operation in an information selection mode allowing selection of an information contained in the group; wherein the control means displays each of a plurality of groups so that each information contained in each group is displayed; displays a group selected in the group selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other groups; allows transition of the group selected in the group selection mode into the information selection mode; displays an information selected from the group in the information selection mode so as to be distinguishable from other information;*

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While Kubota teaches that a user can select desired keys from groups of related keys, Kubota does not explicitly teach a transition from a group selected in group selection mode to information selection mode, however, Scott teaches a method for entering text to a computer system using an input device having a small number of keys (Abstract; Fig. 1), where character information is displayed in groups where all characters in the group are displayed (Col. 2, l. 1-10), and after selecting a group, the user may select a character from the group of characters (Col. 5, l. 10-28).

Claim 13 also cites: *sets the information selected in the information selection mode as a definable information; and defines an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information; and defines an entry of the information when a predetermined definitive instruction is issued in respect of the definable information;*

While Kubota does not explicitly teach that the information selected in the information selection mode is set as definable information, Scott teaches that a user can set the information selected in the information selection mode as definable information, i.e., the input device includes a shift key and different character selection menus are displayed in response to actuation of the shift key, such as lower case, or upper case characters (Col. 2, l. 22-29).

Claim 13 also cites: *wherein the control means displays each group so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode; and wherein the predetermined information is defined beforehand.*

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Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18; especially l. 11-15), compare to *wherein each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode; and wherein the predetermined information is defined beforehand*. Kubota also teaches displaying other keys in a group display in an enlarged manner in response to user input (col. 12, l. 24-54).

Both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, since the reduced keystroke character grouping method disclosed by Scott may be applied to any group of characters and input device keys, including pictographic symbols of Chinese and Japanese languages (col. 5, l. 38-45); so that the user would have the benefit of using the grouped characters for easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22), thus allowing for faster and easier character entry.

Regarding dependent claims 15-24, claims 15-24 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 3-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 25, claim 25 reflects the computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein an information entry program to be executed on a computer, used for implementing the information entry method as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding dependent claims 28-36, claims 28-36 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 4-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding independent claim 37, claim 37 reflects the program execution device for executing an information entry program, used for implementing the information entry method as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Regarding dependent claims 39-48, claims 39-48 incorporate substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claims 3-12, and are rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 06/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's arguments that the combination of Kubota and Scott does not disclose the newly claimed limitations (Remarks, p. 15-16) *wherein*

each group is displayed so that a predetermined information contained therein is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other information in the group selection mode; and wherein the predetermined information is defined beforehand (claim 1), Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18; especially l. 11-15). Kubota also teaches displaying other keys in a group display in an enlarged manner in response to user input (col. 12, l. 24-54).

In response to applicant's arguments regarding the motivation to combine the prior art teachings in the particular manner claimed (Remarks, p. 16-17), and in response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, both the inventions are directed toward text input and information entry. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method of inputting information into a portable information processing device taught by Kubota with the

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reduced keystroke input grouping of Scott, since the reduced keystroke character grouping method disclosed by Scott may be applied to any group of characters and input device keys, including pictographic symbols of Chinese and Japanese languages (col. 5, l. 38-45); so that the user would have the benefit of using the grouped characters for easier text and information entry using fewer strokes (Kubota Col. 2, l. 23-28) and/or keystrokes or button actuations (Scott, Col. 1, l. 10-22), thus allowing for faster and easier character entry.

Therefore, the motivation to combine the references may be found within the references themselves as cited above.

In response to applicant's arguments regarding the rejections of claims 3, 15, 28, and 39 (Remarks, p. 18), Kubota does teach that a group selected in the group selection mode is displayed in an enlarged manner as compared with the other groups because Kubota teaches that the initial display device may display predetermined keys larger than other keys and the display change device may expand the provisionally selected key (Col. 3, l. 13-18). Further, Kubota teaches an embodiment where a kana row becomes shaded and subordinate keys appear in a downward row, displaying the selected group in an enlarged manner compared with the other groups (Col. 17, l. 26-37, Fig. 19). Thus at the very least, Kubota teaches displaying the group of provisionally selected keys in an enlarged manner, thus enlarging a selected group as compared with other groups, i.e., the non selected keys which are displayed at a smaller size.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amelia Rutledge whose telephone number is 571-272-7508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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AR


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